

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



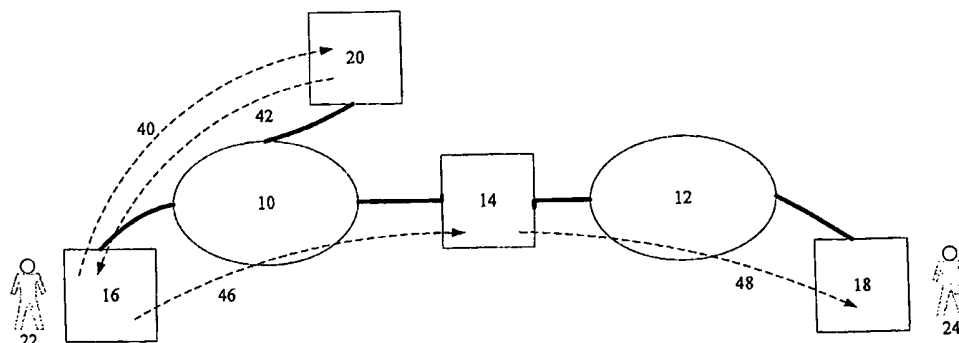
(43) International Publication Date
13 October 2005 (13.10.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/096543 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04L 9/32**, 9/30, 12/58, 12/66
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/AU2005/000487
- (22) International Filing Date: 4 April 2005 (04.04.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
2004901799 2 April 2004 (02.04.2004) AU
2005901063 7 March 2005 (07.03.2005) AU
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- (81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: METHOD OF PROVIDING KEY CONTAINERS



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to providing key containers, such as an encryption or a signing key container to aid the secure transmission of messages sent from a sender to a recipient. A key container directory (20) receives a request for the key container from a requestor (14, 22 or 24). The key container provider (20) provides a key container to the requestor (14, 22 or 24) that contains a cryptographic key of a gateway (14) that the message will transit and an address of the sender (22 or 24) or the recipient (22 or 24). In this way, the message may be sent or received without the sender's or receiver's specific knowledge that the gateway will or has acted as a security proxy of the other party. The sender of the message need not have prior knowledge of the address of the recipient's message gateway. The invention also concerns a key container directory, a key container and methods of receiving a key container.

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